

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 41 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

Reverend Lonnie Mitchell, Sr., Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Spokane, Washington, offered the following prayer:

O Lord God, pour out Your presence and Your power upon this opening session of the U.S. House of Representatives. Please empower our leaders to deliberate, collaborate, and, when necessary, compromise for the good of our Nation.

As President Lincoln said: With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right, as God gives us to see the right, let this Congress strive on to finish the work they are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds . . . to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among everybody and with all nations.

God, we the people in the land of the free and the home of the brave desperately need You now and forevermore. O that You would bless this session and the leaders in this House and all branches of our government.

Respectful of all faiths, in Jesus the Christ I pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BANKS of Indiana led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND LONNIE MITCHELL, SR.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to welcome Pastor Lonnie Mitchell today to the people's House. He accepted the call to ministry in 1985 under the AME church and came to Spokane, Washington, in 1991. He moved his young family and has been there ever since, leading his congregation under the theme to be "the cathedral of love, where everybody is somebody and Jesus is the center of attraction."

He also started the AHANA Business and Professional Organization, which was formed for persons of color. He started Unity in the Community in Spokane, which is now the largest multicultural celebration in the inland Northwest, 22 years strong. He has his master's from Gonzaga University, which is our local Jesuit university, but is a proponent of bringing faith and government together to build and sustain healthy communities.

It was great to have him here today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BANKS of Indiana). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

CARE CORPS DEMONSTRATION ACT

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to highlight the Care Corps Demonstration Act, a bill that Congresswoman MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM and I will be introducing this week.

Every year, millions of seniors and individuals with disabilities find themselves in need of long-term care and services. However, our Nation faces a critical shortage of caregivers. To address this growing problem, I have joined MICHELLE to introduce the Care Corps Demonstration Act.

This commonsense and bipartisan bill will create a grant program that will provide compassionate young men and women an opportunity to gain valuable experience working with seniors and individuals with disabilities across our great land.

Care Corps will not only help empower our young adults to meet our Nation's senior needs, but it will also provide them with essential educational assistance and give them an opportunity to start or further their careers as caregivers.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this bill so that our seniors and those with disabilities receive the care they so desperately need while empowering our youth to advance their careers.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION SABOTAGING ACA

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, recently, we learned the Trump administration has diverted taxpayer funds allocated for the enrollment in the Affordable Care Act activities to create social media videos and content claiming that the Affordable Care Act is failing, a deliberate act of sabotage. Instead of making sure Americans remain healthy and improve the risk pool, the HHS is peddling online propaganda to discourage enrollment and health insurance.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, the ACA markets are stabilized, and there is simply no evidence of death spirals or collapsing markets. According to reliable polls, over 50 percent of the American people are in support of the Affordable Care Act. That is real news.

The President has repeatedly declared that he would let the ACA fail just to score political points. It is unbelievable that a sitting President would wish catastrophic harm on his own people, but, unfortunately, that is what is happening.

Colleagues, the ACA is not failing on its own. It is being actively sabotaged by the President and our Republican Congress. The administration has repeatedly wavered in its responsibility to administer cost-sharing reduction payments, relaxed enforcement of the insurance mandate, and refused to help State governments shore up their own healthcare exchanges.

The majority and the Trump administration should quit playing politics with our healthcare system.

HELLO GORGEOUS!

(Mrs. WALORSKI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. WALORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Michael Becker, to celebrate the positive impact that he has had in our community.

In 2006, Michael and his wife, Kim, founded the not-for-profit Hello Gorgeous!, which brings joy to women fighting cancer by giving them a red carpet experience complete with a makeover and spa.

Reaching 15 States with mobile day spas and affiliate salons, Hello Gorgeous! has provided unforgettable experiences to thousands of women all over the country.

The organization Michael and Kim built together and the mission they devoted themselves to brings happiness and hope where it is needed most. Their passion, drive, and faith inspire us all, and their selfless generosity is an example we should strive to follow.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor and a privilege to represent such kind and

giving people. Michael lived a life full of love, laughter, and spirit. My thoughts are with Kim and everyone at Hello Gorgeous! in whose work, I have no doubt, Michael's memory will live on.

PASSAGE OF THE GI BILL

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill, has since provided tens of millions of returning Active-Duty veterans with help buying a home, starting a business, and going to college. Also, in addition to doing the right thing, the GI Bill fundamentally transformed the American economy from an industrial-based economy to a knowledge-based economy.

I was proud to support H.R. 3218 this week that would renew this commitment. The bill provides expanded educational benefits for servicemembers and their families, including the elimination of time restrictions on education credits for veterans who reenter civilian life in 2013 or after.

GI benefits should not come with an expiration date. Our veterans deserve our respect unexpired for their service to our country. This bill affirms that obligation.

CONGRATULATING CAPTAIN PHILIP DAWSON III ON HIS RETIREMENT

(Mr. DUNN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Captain Phillip Dawson on his retirement from the United States Navy. On Friday, Captain Dawson will complete a nearly 4-year tour as the commanding officer of the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City, Florida.

A 1988 graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Captain Dawson first served on the USS Tattnall as the anti-submarine warfare officer and, later, on the USS Harry E. Yarnell as the fire control officer.

Captain Dawson assumed command of the Naval Surface Warfare Center in 2013, where he led the center in a wide array of missions, including littoral warfare, coastal defense, and special missions. This base is also home to the U.S. Navy Dive School, where all of the divers from all of our services are trained.

Captain Dawson's selfless sacrifice to this country and dedication to our Navy is truly inspiring. Madam Speaker, please join me in thanking Captain Dawson, his wife, Belinda, and their three children for their years of service and sacrifice, and wish them luck as they enjoy a new chapter in life.

HELPING AMERICANS FIGHT BACK

(Mr. KENNEDY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I met Ted a few weeks ago. He is a bricklayer from Fall River, Massachusetts. It is hard, proud work, the kind that comes with frequent physical injury. Ted is no exception.

Then came the opioid prescriptions. Then came a long and painful road to addiction.

But Ted fought back. By force of will, faith, he pulled himself up, he got treatment, and he got clean. But his most recent injury cost him his job and his health insurance, and a new diagnosis just came in: liver cancer.

Madam Speaker, this is where a system proves what it is made of. When our people are sick, when they are tired, when they are terrified, and when they have given everything that they have got, do we abandon them? No. We pull them up. We bet on their resilience because there is nothing more fundamentally American than the belief that our people survive, they endure, and they rise to fight again.

They deserve a government that will jump into the ring by their side. Today is that test of what is good and decent for our people.

THANK YOU, CANDACE RICH

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude and appreciation I have the opportunity to recognize Candace Rich, legislative assistant for South Carolina's Second Congressional District. I will always appreciate Candace for her years of service on behalf of the people of South Carolina.

A native of Virginia, Candace is an esteemed alumna of the University of South Carolina, with degrees in history and political science. She also earned a master's of arts in instruction and curriculum from Angelo State University.

She is truly dedicated to public service, beginning as an intern in the district office starting in 2010 before joining the staff in 2014.

Candace's experience on healthcare, education, and workforce issues, combined with a genuine desire to serve constituents, has made a difference. Candace was crucial in helping Republicans pass and have signed a record number of bills this year.

It is with mixed feelings but great happiness that I bid Candace farewell. She is moving on next week to a new role teaching social studies at Central High School in San Angelo, Texas. I know her parents, Tim and Angela, along with her brothers, Aaron and Adam, join me in recognizing her achievements.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

WE MUST DO BETTER

(Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I have been listening daily to heartbreaking stories from real people about their health challenges and what the repeal of the Affordable Care Act would mean to them.

People like Peter Morley, who survived cancer and now lives with lupus—he won't be able to afford his lifesaving infusions if repeal happens.

For Baby Theo, born with two holes and an enlarged kidney, the return of lifetime caps would mean the loss of insurance for him.

And Red Raccoon, an Iraq war veteran suffering from PTSD, he relies on Medicaid to supplement the inadequate VA system.

Each of them and millions more will suffer if repeal or replace goes forward. I believe we are a greater, more caring nation than this. I believe we can, we shall, we must do better.

INDIANA'S FISCAL STRENGTH

(Mr. BANKS of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BANKS of Indiana. Madam Speaker, here in Washington, we are currently in the middle of an important debate on the Federal budget.

It is clear that dramatic changes need to be made in the way that taxpayer dollars are spent. We need to get our Nation's fiscal house in order.

As we consider important reforms, we would be wise to turn to my home State of Indiana. Last week, Indiana State Auditor Tera Klutz announced that our State currently has a rainy day fund of nearly \$1.8 billion. Contrast that with a nearly \$20 trillion national debt here in Washington.

As Auditor Klutz noted in a press conference last week: "Hoosiers can rest assured that their government takes the task of managing taxpayers' money seriously. Just like people across the State live within their means, Indiana has worked hard to spend less than we take in, invest in our priorities, and retain resources in the event of an economic downturn."

To get our fiscal house in order, we need more of this Hoosier common sense in Washington. The attitude and approach that has worked well in Indiana should be a model for the Nation.

AMERICAN PEOPLE TO PAY FOR A WALL

(Mr. AGUILAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)